

# Beetle Update

## To Keep Tukwila Residents Informed on the Citrus Longhorned Beetle Project

*We're moving into the next phase of our effort to save Washington trees from the Citrus Longhorned Beetle. We hope this update will give you a broad overview of our activities. We will also be communicating with you through our Web site, open houses, and community events.*

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## Goal: SAVE OUR TREES

Status	Action	Purpose
In Place	Quarantine	Prevent the artificial spread of beetles
Underway	Survey	Look for signs of beetles and beetle damage
<i>Proposed</i>	Tree Injection	Slow the natural spread of beetles
<i>Proposed</i>	Tree Removal	Eradicate the beetle

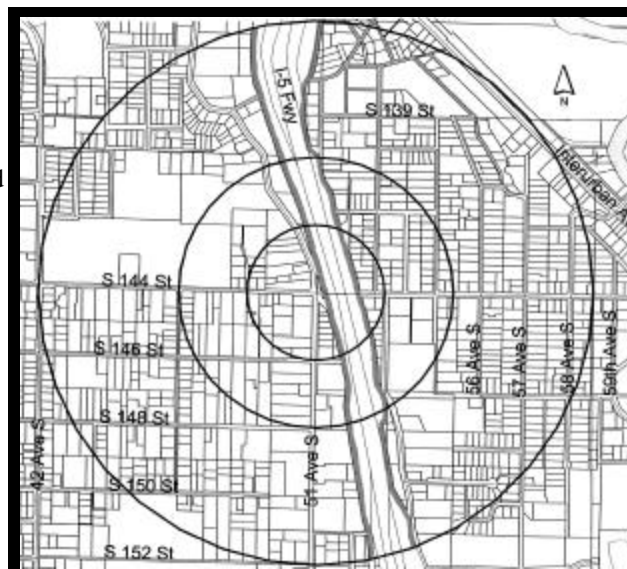
## Activities Underway to Combat the Citrus Longhorned Beetle

The Department of Agriculture's goal is to protect Washington State's natural resources, agriculture industry, and the public from invasive plant and animal pests and diseases. The Citrus Longhorned Beetle is considered a serious pest because it attacks and eventually kills hardwood trees. If the beetle gets established in Washington State, the economic and environmental impacts would be catastrophic.

Since finding the beetle in August, WSDA has been active in securing federal funding, taking recommendations from a special Science Advisory Panel, consulting with scientists involved with Longhorned Beetle infestations, and keeping Tukwila residents informed of project activities. Here is an update on actions to eradicate the beetle:

### Quarantine

The Department established a quarantine to prevent the potential artificial spread of the Citrus Longhorned Beetle. The quarantine prohibits moving the beetle or plant material that may be infested by the beetle out of the quarantine area. Most hardwood trees and shrubs are potential host plants for the beetle. Be sure to bring your tree prunings to Chipper Days so we can dispose of the materials for you. And, if you use a landscaper or gardener, please make sure they are aware of the quarantine. You may burn your firewood, but cannot take it out of the quarantine area.



### Possible Action Areas

- Inner Circle—Host Tree Removal & Chipping (up to 1/8 mile radius)
- Middle Ring—Tree Injection (up to 1/4 mile radius)
- Outer Ring to Center—Survey & Quarantine (up to 1/2 mile radius)

**Learn more at the Open House on April 25**

## Citrus Longhorned Beetle Activities continued...



*Meet your Survey Crew!  
Randy, Maren, Veronica, & Greg (not pictured)*

### Tree Survey

A four-person team is working daily in the quarantine area to conduct tree inspections from ground level. As of April 5th, 661 trees and 41 properties have been inspected. We are concentrating our efforts in the center of the quarantine area where the beetle is most likely to be found.

Thank you for your cooperation with our tree inspections. We have permission to conduct survey work on 143 properties, but we have not

been able to reach everybody. If you are located on the outer edges of the quarantine area, we probably haven't made it to your property yet. If you live towards the center of the quarantine area and have not met us, you probably were not home when we came by. If you would like to give us permission to survey your property, please call (800) 443-6684.

### Have you found any beetles yet?

No. But, we are not surprised. During this stage of the Citrus Longhorned Beetle life cycle, grubs live and feed relentlessly inside hardwood trees. Surveying at this time of the year allows us to get to know your area, gain access to trees, and to conduct an inventory of potential host trees. It is much easier to find beetle evidence after adult beetles chew their way out of the trees, leaving dime-sized exit holes. We plan to increase the size and scope of the survey team this summer when finding infested trees is easier.

### Proposed Tree Removal

Removing and destroying trees is the only 100% effective method of killing beetles in infested trees. Tree removal denies the beetle a food source and breeding ground and it kills larvae inside the trees. Based on scientific information gathered during the last several months, WSDA is proposing to remove targeted host trees in the quarantine area. Evergreen trees (conifers) would not be affected.

The proposal includes tree removal and chipping in key areas where beetle infestations are most probable:

- Host trees along I-5 on Department of Transportation land within the quarantine area.
- Host trees out to a maximum of 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a mile from the introduction site, with initial priority to remove trees on the west side of I-5.
- All infested trees found in the quarantine area well as host trees within 80 feet of infested trees.

Both WSDA and USDA staff are working on environmental documentation to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed tree removal. We will comply with the National and State Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA and SEPA) before implementing any actions.

If the proposals are approved, we would start removing trees early this summer before adult beetles have a chance to chew their way out of the trees and spread to other trees. Prior to removing any trees, we will contact property owners to explain the process including our goal of replacing trees.

### Proposed Tree Injection

The insecticide *imidacloprid* is used to slow the natural spread of Longhorned Beetles. *Imidacloprid* is a systemic insecticide that, when injected directly into the trunk of a tree or the soil near a tree, moves quickly upward into stems, twigs, and foliage where the beetles would be expected to feed and lay eggs. When the beetles feed on the twigs prior to mating and dispersal, a high percentage of them will be killed. Tree injection can decrease beetle populations and help prevent future tree loss.

WSDA is proposing to treat host trees out to a maximum of a ¼ mile radius from the introduction site. Tree injection requires the same environmental documentation as tree removal. We will contact property owners prior to doing any tree injections.

## National Experts to Meet with Tukwila Residents at April 25 Open House

You are invited to an Open House on Thursday, April 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Showalter Middle School. WSDA is hosting the event to bring you up-to-date on the Citrus Longhorned Beetle project and give you an opportunity to get your questions answered.

WSDA entomologists will be on hand along with several scientists involved in the New York and Chicago Asian Longhorned Beetle eradication programs. These scientists have personally seen the devastating destruction that the Longhorned Beetle causes by attacking and killing healthy trees. As a result of the beetle infestations in New York and Chicago, millions of dollars have been spent and over 7,000 trees have been destroyed.



*Residents learn about the threat of Citrus Longhorned Beetle*



*Scientists Tour the Introduction Site*

The guest entomologists also have first-hand experience with different treatments used to eradicate the beetle. They will discuss some of the actions proposed for combating the beetle introduction in Tukwila, including tree removal and tree injection.

Stop by the Showalter Middle School cafeteria anytime between 6 and 8 p.m. to learn how our project affects you. You will have the opportunity to see tree branches damaged by longhorned beetles, displays, and information on the next phase of the project. Even if you attended the last two open houses, you will not want to miss this one.

## Special Thanks to the Tukwila Community!

- **City of Tukwila Public Works Street Crew** for your hard work during Chipper Days
  - **The Hazelnut** for keeping residents informed about the Citrus Longhorned Beetle project
  - **Tukwila School District Administration Office** for coordinating our community outreach events
  - **Foster High School** for providing meeting space and for letting us hold Chipper Days in your parking lot
  - **Showalter Middle School** for hosting our public meeting and open house events
  - **Foster Library** for giving us space for a Citrus Longhorned Beetle display during the month of May
  - Most importantly, thank you to the **residents of Tukwila** for your cooperation and support!
- We could not do this without you!

## Mark your calendars for Chipper Days!

Chipper Days will be held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month** from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Foster High School East Parking lot. Chipper Days help you dispose of prunings and other plant materials that can't be moved out of the quarantine area. We have made it fast and easy to participate in Chipper Days. Just drive your truckload of materials to the parking lot and we will help unload it, chip it, and dispose of it free of charge.

# Attention Residents:

*Please read this important update on the  
Citrus Longhorned Beetle project.*

- Proposed tree removal
- Proposed tree injection
- Open House on April 25
- Chipper Days held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
of every month



*Citrus Longhorned Beetle (not to scale)*

## How To Reach Us

**You can get answers to your questions even if you can't make it to the Open House**

Visit our Web site at <http://agr.wa.gov/CitrusLHBeetle.htm>

Send your questions to us via e-mail at [clhb@agr.wa.gov](mailto:clhb@agr.wa.gov)

Call our toll-free hotline at (800) 443-6684

Stop by our information table at Chipper Days every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at Foster High School

Look for us at community events including the Wildlife Fair on May 11 and Tukwila Days on July 13



### **Citrus Longhorned Beetle Project**

3939 Cleveland Avenue SE

Olympia, WA 98501